

Message Text

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TAGS: BGEN, JO
SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF LAW GOVERNING REGIONAL BUSINESS HEADQUARTERS

ATHENS FOR RTDO

1. JORDAN'S OFFICIAL GAZETTE NO. 2898 OF MAY 2, 1977
RECORDS AMENDMENT OF REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN COMPANIES
LAW, NO. 46 OF 1975, WHICH GOVERNS ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION,
AND PRIVILEGES OF FOREIGN REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OFFICES.
AMENDMENT PROVIDES MEANS FOR CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION
(AND THEREFORE OPERATION) OF THESE OFFICES IF THEY ARE
FOUND IN VIOLATION OF LAW AND ELIMINATES PREVIOUS PROVISION
BY WHICH NON-JORDANIAN EMPLOYEES OF REGIONAL OFFICES WERE
PERMITTED TO IMPORT PERSONAL HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS FREE OF CUSTOMS
DUTIES (ARTICLE #3 OF AMENDING LEGISLATION QUOTED IN
PARAGRAPH #2 BELOW)

2. EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF AMENDING
LEGISLATION FOLLOWS: QUOTE. LAW NO. 17 FOR 1977-
LAW AMENDING THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN COMPANIES LAW.
ARTICLE 1: THIS LAW SHALL BE CITED AS "THE LAW
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AMENDING THE FOREIGN COMPANIES REGISTRATION LAW FOR
1977" AND SHALL BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH LAW NO. 46
FOR THE YEAR 1975 REFERRED TO ABOVE AS THE "ORIGINAL LAW",
WHICH WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE AS OF DATE OF ITS PUBLICATION IN
THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.
ARTICLE 2: AMEND ARTICLE 5 OF THE ORIGINAL LAW AS FOLLOWS:
A) DELETE THE WORDS "CARRY OUT ITS BUSINESS" REFERRED TO AT THE

END OF ITEM (B) OF THE SAME ARTICLE AND SUBSTITUTE "CARRY OUT ITS BUSINESS OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM."

B) ADD TO THE SAME ARTICLE ITEM (C) WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: "ITEM (C): THE MINISTER MAINTAINS THE RIGHT TO CANCEL THE REGISTRATION OF A FOREIGN COMPANY IF IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT IT HAS VIOLATED THIS LAW OR ANY REGULATIONS ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH IT, INCLUDING THE CARRYING OUT OF ITS BUSINESS WITHIN THE KINGDOM." ARTICLE 3: AMEND ARTICLE 7 OF THE ORIGINAL LAW BY COMPLETE DELETION OF ITEM (B) AND CHANGE ITEMS (C) AND (D) TO BECOME (B) AND (C) RESPECTIVELY. END QUOTE.

3. THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONCERN THAT FOREIGN COMPANIES REGISTERED UNDER LAW NO. 46 OF 1975 HAVE VIOLATED SPIRIT IF NOT LETTER OF THIS LEGISLATION, IN PARTICULAR BY CARRYING OUT BUSINESS WITHIN JORDAN FROM REGIONAL OFFICES, WHICH ENJOY PRIVILEGES OF 1975 LEGISLATION SPECIFICALLY ON CONDITION OF RESTRICTING ACTIVITY TO BUSINESS OUTSIDE COUNTRY. ARTICLE 2 OF 1977 AMENDING LEGISLATION PROVIDES LEGAL RECOURSE FOR SUCH INFRACTIONS. DELETION OF ARTICLE 7 (B) OF ORIGINAL LAW CANCELS PRIVILEGES OF DUTY-FREE ENTRY INTO JORDAN OF HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OF EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES (OTHER PRIVILEGES LISTED IN ARTICLE 7 OF ORIGINAL LAW REMAIN UNAFFECTED--I.E., EXEMPTION OF EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES FROM INCOME AND OTHER SALARY TAXATION, DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF ONE PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLE BY EACH EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEE, AND ISSUANCE OF RESIDENCE PERMITS VALID FOR TWO YEARS). RANKING MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE OFFICIAL EXPLAINED CANCELLATION OF HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS IMPORT UNCLASSIFIED

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PRIVILEGE AS FOLLOWS: PROVISION WAS AIMED AT OFFICES RELOCATING FROM BEIRUT. BY NOW, HOWEVER, ALL OFFICES TRANSFERING FROM BEIRUT TO AMMAN HAVE COMPLETED THEIR RELOCATION. ANY NEW REGIONAL OFFICES WILL BE ESTABLISHED FROM HOME OFFICES, AND EMPLOYEES CAN EITHER BUY THEIR HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS IN JORDAN OR PAY CUSTOMS DUTIES ON THEIR ENTRY. MINISTRY OFFICIAL NOTED THAT JORDAN HAS JUST REDUCED TARIFFS ON IMPORT OF FURNITURE. EMBASSY COMMENT--PERHAPS NOT INCIDENTAL TO CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT WAS THAT DELUGE OF REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTIONS FOR SINGLE ITEMS AFTER ARRIVAL OF EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES IN JORDAN WAS BECOMING CONSIDERABLE NUISANCE FOR MINISTRY. END COMMENT. IN GENERAL, MINISTRY OFFICIAL ASSERTED THAT JORDAN CONTINUES TO WELCOME FOREIGN REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OFFICES.

5. STATUS OF AND PROSPECTS FOR REGIONAL BUSINESS OFFICES IN AMMAN WILL BE SUBJECT OF FUTURE AIRGRAM. SUDDARTH

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